

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were presented for consideration in this application. New claims 26-31 have been added in this submission. Claims 21 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice and disclaimer of subject matter recited therein. Claims 20 and 22-25 have been rejected. Claim 21 has been objected to and claims 1-19 have been allowed. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for identifying the allowable subject matter.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 20, 22, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murakami, US patent No. 5,175,747. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 21 includes allowable subject matters over Murakami. Claim 20 has been amended to include limitations of claim 21. This amendment renders the rejection of claim 20 moot. Applicants believe that claim 20 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 22 depends from amended claim 20 and is patentably distinguishable from Murakami for at least the same reasons as claim 20.

Claim 25 has been canceled thus the rejection of claim 25 is rendered moot.


Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 23 and 24 depend from amended claim 20, which includes the allowable subject matter over Murakami. Thus, claims 23 and 24 are patentably distinguishable from Murakami for at least the same reasons as claim 20.

Applicant believes this application and the claims herein to be in a condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have further inquiry concerning these matters, the Examiner is requested to contact the below named attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,



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